

DATE

The Honorable John Whitmire
Texas Senate
Capitol Office 1E.13
P.O.Box 12068, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: San Jacinto River Waste Pits Federal Superfund Site, Harris County, Texas

Dear Senator Whitmire:

On March 19, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site (the Site) to the National Priorities List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites eligible for remedial action under the federal Superfund program. The Site obtained this designation due to the release or threatened release of dioxins and furans into the waterway ~~and the continuing threat posed by a partially submerged waste fill containing wastes with high levels of dioxins and furans.~~

The Site is located on the western bank of the San Jacinto River, immediately north of the Interstate Highway 10 Bridge, in Harris County, Texas. It consists of two to three disposal pits located along the San Jacinto River near Houston and covers approximately 20 acres.

The EPA, in coordination with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is currently ~~conducting~~overseeing a Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS) at the Site. The RI is conducted to collect and analyze the information needed to determine the extent and nature of the contamination. The FS, which will be conducted following the RI, will identify and evaluate possible technical solutions for the Site. When the FS is completed, public input will be solicited through a public meeting and a comment period. After reviewing the public comments, a remedy selection will be made.

The EPA is also collaborating with multiple stakeholders on Superfund activities related to the Site. The stakeholders includes the TCEQ, Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Harris County Attorney's Office, Harris County Judge's Office, Harris County Commissioner Precinct 2, Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services, Harris County Public Infrastructure Department, Houston-Galveston Area Council, Galveston Bay Foundation, Port of Houston Authority, ~~and~~ McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation, and International Paper Company.

The stakeholders are working with the EPA to ensure: 1) appropriate containment, remediation and public safety measures are undertaken at the Site and 2) that the community awareness plan includes appropriate strategies to notify citizens of the dangers of fishing in and consuming fish from the affected area and eliminate these unhealthy behaviors. As part of this process, they are sharing their technical comments with the EPA regarding the draft RI/FS Work Plan and Time

Critical Removal Action to assure the best protection from the contaminants associated with the Site

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Site. To date, various activities have been completed including: 1) erecting a 9' fence, and other barriers, in the area to preclude access to and fishing near the Site, 2) designing a tri-lingual (English, Spanish and Vietnamese) danger sign warning people to stay off the Site and not to fish or to eat fish or blue crab from this segment of the San Jacinto River, 3) posting the signs along the fence at a distance of approximately every 100 feet apart and 4) sending press releases to local newspapers regarding the above actions.

The TCEQ, on behalf of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund stakeholders, will continue to keep you informed of environmental and community outreach activities regarding the Site.

Additional information about the Site and on-going activities at the Site, is provided in the enclosed NPL Site narrative. For online information regarding the EPA Region 6 Superfund Program please feel free to visit <http://www.epa.gov/region6/sf>. Likewise, additional information regarding the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund designation can be found at www.tceq.state.tx.us/remediation/superfund/epa/sanjacpits. Also, for general information purposes, please note that the EPA has established a site information repository, at the Pasadena Public Library, 1201 Jeff Ginn Memorial Drive, Pasadena, Texas 77506, telephone number 713-477-0276. If you would like further information about the Site, please do not hesitate to contact me at 512-239-2277, or by correspondence, please include Remediation Division, Mail Code 136 in the envelope address.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Patton, Manager
Superfund Section
Remediation Division

RP/ct
Enclosure

Input:	
Document 1 ID	PowerDocs://AUSTIN_1/598905/1
Description	AUSTIN_1-#598905-v1-SJR_- _Officials_Notification_Correspondence_- _DRAFT_5.12.10
Document 2 ID	PowerDocs://AUSTIN_1/598905/2
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Rendering set	Winstead Strikeout - Colors

Legend:	
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Redline Summary:		
No.	Change	Text
1	Change	"designation due to the...furans into the waterway" changed to "designation due to the...furans into the waterway"
2	Change	"dioxins and furans into...of dioxins and furans." changed to "dioxins and furans into the waterway."
3-4	Change	"Environmental Quality...Investigation (RI) and" changed to "Environmental Quality...Investigation (RI) and"

5	Change	"(RI) and Feasibility...is conducted to collect" changed to "(RI) and Feasibility...is conducted to collect"
6	Change	"Foundation, Port of...Industrial Maintenance" changed to "Foundation, Port of...Industrial Maintenance"
7-8	Change	"Industrial Maintenance...Paper Company." changed to "Industrial Maintenance...Paper Company."
9	Insertion	AUSTIN_1\598905v2
10	Insertion	48434-1 05/12/2010

Statistics:	
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Insertions	6
Deletions	4
Moved from	0
Moved to	0
Style change	0
Format changed	0
Total changes	10

Redline options:	
	Status
Redline Statistics at End of Document	ON
Include Redline Comparison Summary	ON
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Show Change Numbers	OFF
Show Change Bars On Left	ON
Show Hidden Text	OFF
Detect List Numbering Changes	ON
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Compare Footnotes	ON
Display Workshare Footers	OFF
Ignore Embedded Objects/Images	OFF
Compare at Character Level	OFF
Compare Numbers at Character Level	OFF
Show Moved Deletions	OFF
Show Changes to Spaces	OFF
Show Paragraph Changes	OFF

Ignore Case Changes	OFF
Ignore Textboxes	OFF
Ignore Field Codes	OFF
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